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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Spain

DATE: 25X1X6

INFO

SUBJECT Reported Efforts by the Spanish Government
to Gain the Support of the Moslem Countries
belonging to the UN

DIST. 23 May 1947

PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN

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Carlos de Miranda y
Quartin, Conde de Casa Real, the Spanish Minister to Egypt, came to
Madrid early in March to confer with Foreign Minister Martin Artajo and
with Franco. As a result of these conferences, it was decided that
after Holy Week the professor of Arabic at the Universidad Central,
Emilio Garcia Gomez, would go to Cairo for the ostensible purpose of
starting a lecture tour which would take him to Egypt, Iraq, Trans-Jordan
and other Moslem countries. According to informant, Garcia Gomez was to
go as far as Iran. Reportedly, the lectures were to provide a cover for
a secret diplomatic mission the purpose of which was to secure the votes
of the Islamic countries in favor of the Franco Government at meetings
of the UN. According to informant, the plans were made with such secrecy
that even in the General Directorate of Morocco and Colonies it was not
known why Garcia Gomez was going to Cairo.

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2. [REDACTED] stated that he had been unable to discover what Garcia
Gomez would offer the Islamic countries in exchange for their votes,
but said that it was logical to suppose that Spanish Morocco was in-
volved.

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3. [REDACTED] characterized Garcia Gomez as an opportunist who was ready
to make himself useful to whatever regime was in power. He studied in
Cairo as a protegee of the Duke of Alba. Upon his return to Spain, during
the republican era, he was named Director of the School of Arabic Studies
at Granada. From Granada he went to Madrid, and was given the chair of
Arabic at the Universidad Central upon the resignation of Miguel Asin
Palacios. Asin and Garcia Gomez, according to informant, are intimate
friends. During the Civil War, Garcia Gomez appeared as an enthusiastic
republican in Madrid and also in Valencia, where he was accorded various
honors by the Republican Government. When the war was over, he returned
to his professorship at Madrid and adopted an openly pro-Franco attitude.

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for which change of position he was rewarded with a membership in the Academy of History. Later, when he thought that the Franco Government was in imminent danger, Garcia Gomez signed one of the various monarchist proclamations which have appeared from time to time, but with Franco still in power, he offered himself for this diplomatic work. He will be accompanied by a certain Gamir, who will serve as English interpreter.

4. Reportedly, Garcia Gomez will begin his mission with the ground broken for him to a certain extent. About mid-January, on his way to attend a congress of prehistoric studies in British Nigeria, the delegate from Spain, Professor Pericot of the Prehistoric Studies department of the University of Barcelona, was detained in Cairo for about twenty days to undergo the various inoculations against tropical diseases required for entry into Nigeria. Pericot made good use of this delay to attract the sympathies of the Moslems for the Franco regime. At first he was not well received by the Arab Nationalists, who had been unfavorably impressed by the results of Franco's policies. However, Pericot, who is a clever psychologist, gave several lectures in which, by declaring himself a republican and a Catalan nationalist and separatist, he gave his hearers the impression that the Franco regime permitted republicans and separatists to occupy chairs in the universities without any restriction of their liberties because of their ideology. Pericot declared that Franco had never fought ideas, which could be freely expressed in Spain, but had simply fought against crime. The success attained in Cairo by Pericot induced the Spanish Minister there to come to Madrid to persuade Franco that with the exertion of some effort the support of the Islamic countries could be assured for the Franco Government.

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